

March 23, 2006

**RETURN PREPARER SENTENCED FOR
FILING FALSE CLAIMS WITH THE IRS**

RE: UNITED STATES v. ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today that on March 22, 2006, Alfredo Rodriguez, of 182 Albert Street, Rochester, New York, was sentenced by United States District Judge Charles J. Siragusa to six months of home confinement, five years probation and ordered to pay \$160,000 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in connection with his guilty plea on December 14, 2005 to filing false income tax returns, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 287, which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that Rodriguez was a return preparer in the Rochester area. As a preparer, he submitted fifty-four returns for thirty-seven taxpayers with the IRS for taxable years 2000 and 2001. All of these returns made claims for refunds based on inaccurate information. Rodriguez submitted these claims to the IRS without his clients' knowledge. After having the refund checks diverted to himself, he provided lesser amounts to his clients.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service under the

direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons, Criminal Investigation Division.